

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3549

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, BFOL, IZ

SUBJECT: MILITARY TECHNICAL COLLEGE/MILITARY ACADEMY AND OTHER
MOD PROJECTS

REF: (A) STATE 210013, (B) BAGHDAD 1237, (C) BAGHDAD 1241

1. MOD (MINDEF) HAS RECENTLY SOPKEN WITH USINT STAFF DURING
SERIES OF MEETINGS OVER SIX WEEKS ABOUT FIVE SEPARATE PROJECTS:
(A) MILITARY ACADEMY (AL BAKR-ACADEMY): AFTER CONSIDERING NUMBER
OF FOREIGN PROPOSALS, INCLUDING SOME AMERICAN, MOD ARMY ENGINEERS
IS BUILDING COMPLEX ITSELF WITH NO OUTSIDE HELP.
(B) MILITARY TECHNICAL COLLEGE (SUBJECT OF STATE 174937 AND
BAGHDAD 1155): FOR WHICH OFFERS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED.
(C) HOSPITAL CONTRACT: HAS BEEN AWARDED TO UNNAMED SWISS FIRM.
(D) CANTONMENT PROJECT: HAS BEEN DROPPED.
(E) PREFABRICATED HOUSING FACTORIES (MOD SENT ONE INVITATION
TO PRESUMPTIVE JOINT VENTURE OF (1) BLOUNT AND (2) PERKINS
WILL (BAGHDAD 1088).

2. DEVELOPING OF ABOVE INFORMATION REQUIRED OVER SIX CALLS
BY USINT STAFF OVER FIVE WEEKS ON TWELVE OFFICERS IN VARIOUS
SECTIONS OF MOD. UNTIL SIXTH CONTACT (REALLY THE ONLY FULLY
SATISFACTORY MEETING) SITUATION WAS USUALLY THAT KNOWLEDGEABLE
PERSONS WERE ON VACATION OR ILL--WITH RESULT THAT USINT WAS
GIVEN UNTIL THREE DAYS AGO INSUFFICIENT AND OCCASIONALLY
MISLEADING INFORMATION.

3. ACCORDING TO UR FILES, THREE U.S. FIRMS, BLOUNT, PERKINS
AND WILL AND SPLAWN-MUNIR APPARENTLY POOLED RESOURCES AND MADE
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JOINT OFFER SOME MONTHS AGO IN REGARD TO THREE SEPARATE MOD

PROJECTS: AL BAKR ACADEMY, CANTONMENT AND HOSPITAL. MOD TOLD US THREE DAYS AGO THAT IT HAD MOST RECENTLY CHOSEN TO INVITE BLOUNT AND OTHER TWO FIRMS (AS A GROUP) TO BID ON FOURTH PROJECT (PREFABRICATED HOUSING FACTORY) BECAUSE OF U.S. GRUOUP'S STRONG PREVIOUS INTEREST IN MOD REQUIREMENTS. MOD REGRETTED IT WAS UNABLE TO ACCEPT GROUP'S ORIGINAL THREE-PROJECT OFFER.

4. I AGREE THAT USINT E-C STAFF SHOULD HAVE PREPARED CLEAR INTERIM REPLY TO STATE 174937 (DIFFEL'S ENQUIRY ABOUT TECHNICAL COLLEGE). REQUESTED ENQUIRIES BY USINT HAD BEEN WELL LAUNCHED (ALTHOUGH CLEAR ANSWERS HAD NOT YET BEEN DEVELOPED) WHEN SENIOR FSL DOING THE FOOTWORK INJURED BACK AND WAS OUT OF OFFICE FOR TWO WEEKS . ANOTHER FSL THEN PICKED UP BALL, WITHOUT APPARENTLY APPRECIATING THAT GIFFELS NEEDED AN INTERIM REPLY OR THAT AS MANY AS FIVE MOD PROJECTS MIGHT BE INVOLVED AND THAT AT LEAST FOUR U.S. FIRMS WERE INTERESTED. (MOD WAS AT THIS TIME NO GREAT HELP IN CLARIFYING WHO WAS WHO AND WHAT WAS WHAT.) BAGHDAD 1088 AND 1155, I AGREE, ARE IMPERFECT AND INCOMPLETE REPORTS ON THE SITUATION AS WE LATER LEARNED IT TO BE.

5. REFERENCE IN BAGHDAD 1088 TO STATE DEPARTMENT CHANNELS MEANT NO MORE THAN THAT MOD MATERIALS WOULD PASS THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT MAIL ROOM EN ROUTE TO U.S. JOINT VENTURE. AS ALTERNATIVE, MOD MIGHT HAVE CHOSEN TO GO THROUGH IRAQI INTERESTS SECTION IN WASHINGTON OR USE INTERNATIONAL MAILS.

6. ABOVE FIVE PARAGRAPHS REPRESENT ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER'S CONDENSATION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF EXTENSIVE WRITTEN AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS FROM E-C STAFF PREPARED IN REACTION TO REF. A. IN SHORT: SITUATION WAS COMPLEX. INFORMATION PROVED DIFFICULT AND TIME-CONSUMING TO DEVELOP AND APPEARED IN CONFUSING FRAGMENTS WHICH WERE REPORTED AS THEY CAME TO LIGHT. WE NOW KNOW NO MORE ABOUT THESE RPROJECTS THAN WHAT IS SAID INPARAS. ONE AND THREE ABOVE AND IN REFS. B AND C. THIS MESSAGE ANSWERS REF. A ANS STATE 174937.
KILLOUGH

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